

Exhibit No. 2Date 1-14-2011Bill No. SB 69

Testimony of Pat Keim in support of Senate Bill 69

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. For the record my name is Pat Keim. I live in Helena. I am here today to support SB 69.

I'm supporting this bill because of the person that I knew Francis Bardanouve to be. He may well be the reason that I have been in Helena working with the legislative process for so many years. Representative Bardanouve gave me my introduction to the Montana legislative process.

In June, 1984 I had just arrived in Havre as the newly appointed Superintendent of the Montana Division of the railroad. I had hardly sat down at the desk that first day when I got a phone call from him that some folks around Harlem had a problem with a railroad grade crossing. Hmm, Imagine that. We talked about the problem and I agreed to meet with him and his constituents at his place. On the appointed evening I arrived at the Bardonouve ranch and was greeted by one of the most gracious, humble, and courteous couples I had ever met. Thanks to Francis the meeting went well and we got the problem resolved quickly. That evening was the beginning of a marvelous friendship that extended through the years and through many issues and meetings. At all times Francis Bardonouve was the personification of the dedicated, humble, and effective public servant.

Francis was a powerful member of the legislature and the appropriations committee. But at no time did that power override his humility and courtesy. He was respected by members of both sides of the aisle. His knowledge of the budget and its process was unsurpassed. He was instrumental in establishing the HB 2 process and Jt. Subcommittee approach which has proven so effective and efficient.

I visited the Bardonouve ranch several times and was always impressed by the frugality with which he operated ^{The} place. Francis got the last drop of value out of every penny invested. There was not a new machine to be found, and bailing wire was the used in abundance. He approached the state budget with that same dedication to frugality. He insisted that those requesting funding know what they were talking about and had looked carefully at the need for the appropriation request with an eye to demonstration of the true need. He expected agencies to live to the same fiscal standard that he did personally.

I remember one day, while driving back to Havre, I came up behind an old battered pickup. You could barely tell the make. There was no way to tell the original color since ever fender, the hood, roof, doors, and tailgate were all different. It was Francis. He had driven to Missoula that morning to look at a boiler the University said needed replacing and he was returning home that evening. He had made that trip to assure himself that they really needed a new boiler instead of just a repair. He did that a lot.

Yet Representative Bardonouve had a heart as big as the world when it came to those truly in need. He ^{went} above and beyond to provide for them, but insisted that the services be delivered only when really needed and with maximum efficient use of the public treasury.

That was the Representative Bardonouve that I feel privileged to have known and called a friend. That is why I am here today to urge support of this bill.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Lee", is centered on the page.